

AGENDA ITEM IV B

PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY- SHREVEPORT

Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Exercise

CIP Code 51.2207

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Louisiana State University at Shreveport intends to develop a proposal for a new Bachelor of Science program in Community Health and Exercise. The program is designed to produce graduates who can provide information about health, disease and preventive programs in their communities by using media services and/or by delivering programs in a variety of local organizations such as schools, nursing homes, and increasingly numerous “wellness” centers.

The program requires 128 credit hours of broad-based coursework: 26 hours in a Kinesiology Core, 22 in a Health Science Core, 6 in Physical Education and Fitness, 15 in Communications, 12 in Social and Behavioral Sciences, 23 in Sciences and Mathematics, 12 in the Humanities and Fine Arts, and 12 hours of electives. The program recommends one of two elective groups: (1) “Humanics,” or courses dealing with management, public administration, and social organization, or (2) Health Care Administration, with a similarly broad range of choices.

Graduates would be employed in local, state, and federal agencies, voluntary health agencies, planning councils, hospitals, clinics, and extension services.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Appropriateness with Institutional Role, Scope, and Mission

The projected program is consistent with the current role, scope, and mission statement for LSU-S as stated in the 1994 Master Plan. It should be noted that the Strategic Plan for Louisiana State University-Shreveport states that “to help educate and promote a more healthy lifestyle can be viewed as a fundamental role [LSUS] serve[s] in the region.” Moreover, LSUS is situated in a city noted for its dense concentration of medical and health care facilities.

Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication

At LSUS, there currently exists a degree program in Elementary and Secondary Health and Physical Education, but this degree is intended for those who wish to attain teacher certification. The proposed

degree is intended for those who do not want to pursue such a profession. Across the state, there exist no other baccalaureate degrees of the same type. The only other similar degrees are offered at the Master's level (e.g., Health Studies and Public Health). The proposed program does not, therefore, appear to duplicate programs elsewhere.

Prospects for Funding

The University projects a need for a modest amount of additional funding to acquire essential library resources (approximately \$3075 over five years). It appears that these additional monies will come from current sources. In addition, the University anticipates needing to hire two new faculty in the next two years -- both preferably with certified expertise in Health and Wellness. The University expects that an impending retirement in AY 2001-2002 will supply the resources for one of these positions; the other "may be acquired via allocation of existing lines as retirements and reassignments occur in the College."

Consistency with Desegregation Settlement Agreement

The desegregation Settlement Agreement does not provide for the establishment of this or any similar degree program at any predominantly black state university.

STAFF SUMMARY

The Letter of Intent appears to meet all relevant criteria for approval: it is appropriate to LSUS's role, scope and mission, does not needlessly duplicate programs elsewhere, has reasonable prospects for funding, and is consistent with the desegregation Settlement Agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Letter of Intent for the projected Bachelor of Science program in Community Health and Exercise (CIP Code 51.2207) at Louisiana State University-Shreveport.